

# **SBA CE**

Santa Barbara Atari Computer Enthusiasts



OCTOBER 1987

VOLUME 6 NO. 10



***Greetings from Santa Barbara!***



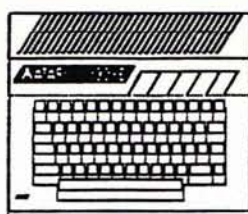
# ATARI COMPUTERS

OCT.



## HOT NEWS

BY: FRED OLIVAS (SPACE)



1987

Did you go to the Atari Faire? Hi, Fred Olivas here reporting on the latest happenings having to do with Atari. The recent Glendale Atari Faire was a tremendous success. I arrived there at about 10:30; just thirty minutes after the doors opened and I could hardly move! There were thousands of people milling about the large auditorium. After depositing my entrance ticket with the doorman I couldn't decide which direction to follow. To the left was a booth set up with excellent Public Domain software for sale; straight ahead was the Michtron booth showing "AIRBALL" and "GOLD RUNNER"; and to my left was where all the local users groups had gathered and set up their systems. This is where I first went because this was where I could go in and register to win a complete ST system.

After filling out the card I got a chance to look at some of the demos being presented by some of the clubs. There were some excellent demos and the one that stood out in my mind was the Star Wars scene where Luke, Princess Leah and Han Solo took the jump into hyperspace. This was actually digitized from the movie and it was very impressive!

Upon leaving this room I checked out the Michtron booth. Dragon's Lair was up and running as well as the other programs I mentioned. "Dragon's Lair" was/is the actual laser disk being accessed by the ST. Two screens are necessary to play this program. One screen is a television monitor for the scenes and the other is an ST color monitor from which, using the mouse, you select your moves. It's not quite as fast as the arcade version but the graphics are an exact original.

Skipping around some I ran into Neil Harris and who I thought was Sandy Austin down in the Atari part of the show. Neil looks just like his pictures however I never realized just how tall he really was. Must be at least 6'5" high! Stepping away I was drawn to an XE showing 80 columns of text on a amber screen. They looked perfect. The 80 column adapter for 8-bit Ataris is a reality!

Another reality was the unbelievable price of \$89.95 for the new Atari 1200 baud modem! It looks fantastic and it's Hayes compatible! Don't buy your modem until you've had a chance to check this one out. You'll be sold!

I always knew that there was plenty of software for both the 8-bits and ST's however I was overwhelmed by the sheer volume of titles available. Everywhere I turned software was being displayed and being sold at or below mail order prices! I never saw so much software in my life. There were titles displayed I've never even heard of. It was a supermarket of software.

Deals were everywhere. I managed to procure a new operating system for my XL with expanded memory called "The Expander". There were other items that I just wanted to have but I didn't have enough money. Indus, Future Systems, has a new ST drive that looks very hi-tech next to an ST. What was absent was the new 8-bit drive and the laser printer. What was hot was the new Mega ST's with blitter and the PC's. Now I know why the blitter chip is so important to users. Showing a demo side by side of a bird flying across the screen was a Mega with blitter and a standard ST. The blitter ST looked much smoother and faster than it's counterpart.

Musicians are embracing the ST because of the MIDI port (nice going Jack). Hybrid Arts, Sonus and Dr. T were all demonstrating their wares with professional musicians. This is where I spent most of my time and money. What I brought home was an Alesis digital reverb unit to be used with my band. I couldn't pass up the price! Like I said, I wish I had taken more money.

In future columns I will try to highlight some of the new products that I saw. It was a real pleasure to see so many Atari users under one roof. I'm very glad to know that the Atari community is so vibrant and active. Hail Atari and all it's users! Long live the 8-bits and ST's!



## ***ACENET 2ND ANNUAL ATARI FAIRE***

September 19-20  
Glendale, California

A joyous group of Atari enthusiasts descended on the Glendale Civic Auditorium on the weekend of September 19-20 for the 2nd annual ACENET Atari Faire. Crowd estimates were listed at better than 5000 people. I can attest that the Saturday show was packed from 10 am til closing. The ancient Civic Auditorium took on the aura of a sauna bath at times, but most folks were having such a good time that it didn't matter.

Atari software for 8-bits and ST's was to be found everywhere. I don't remember ever seeing so much diverse Atari software under one roof. Ditto for hardware, although the Atari PC and laser printer were not in evidence. The Mega's were on display but with a small screen message "no blitter". There was at least one Mega with blitter and the graphics looked much smoother.

Neil Harris, Atari VIP, met with a packed, standing room only crowd of Atari users in an afternoon seminar. He discussed the last 3 years of

Atari Corporation - where it was-is-and where it's headed. Jack Tramiel actually purchased Atari computers and home games company for \$30 million in 1984. Today Atari is worth \$350 million. Old Atari warehouse stock included 100,000 game units (2600). Atari Corp. tried to get rid of them and was surprised when they sold out. Having the ability to get more, Atari ordered another 100,000 game units - and they sold out. Apparently the games market is not completely dead yet - and Atari is back in the games business. Their "new" \$150 games machine was on display at the show with a light gun, 4 colored balls, and a "modified" 65XE computer. This is hoped to be a contender with the top end games machines (Nintendo). It actually is a 64K computer with I/O port, BASIC language, and keyboard. Comes with some cartridge games (including a 256K Flight Simulator II cart). WordPerfect had a display of their word processing program for the Atari ST (version 4.1) and reps to demo it. Looks very powerful. Now I've got to decide if I want to spend the bucks to get it or should I remain content with ST Writer (version 2.0)? Let me sleep on this one a while longer. (After calling WordPerfect, I think



DISK-OF-THE-MONTH

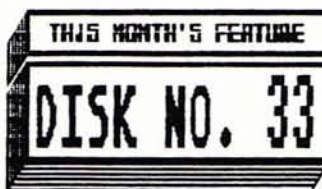
S.B.A.C.E.

OCTOBER 1987

# THE DIGITAL LIBRARIAN...

DISK PRICE  
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GREAT PROGRAMS  
  
AT A LOW PRICE  
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SANTA BARBARA ATARI COMPUTER ENTHUSIASTS



*SIDE-A*

## DAISY DOT

TURN YOUR EPSON PRINTER INTO A TYPE-SETTING MACHINE. SUPPORTS DIFFERENT CHARACTER FONTS. YOU CAN EVEN CREATE YOUR OWN!

NAME	SECTORS
AUTORUN.SYS.....	089
AUTORUN.CTB.....	184
DAISYDOT.DOC.....	143
BLOCK.MLR.....	012
ONIO.MLR.....	013
ROMAN.MLR.....	013
SANSERIF.MLR.....	012
SCRIPT.MLR.....	014
STAR.CNF.....	001
XX.CNF.....	001
DOS.SYS.....	037
DUP.SYS.....	042

146 FREE SECTORS

*SIDE-B*

## PRINTSHOP TOOLS

NEATLY PRINT OUT ALL OF YOUR PRINTSHOP ICONS WITH PRINTSHOP PRINT.  
PACK ICONS INTO SMALLER BUNCHED FILES FOR MODEM EXCHANGE OR TO CONSERVE DISK SPACE WITH PACKTOOL. UNPACK THOSE ICONS WITH SHOOTOOL.

So you want tools, do you? Alright, we hear you. Your requests for useful tools got this old librarians creative juices flowing and here is what we came up with.

Daisy Dot is the Public Domain program of the year! Written in *TURBO BASIC* it will only run on XL/XE machines (sorry old timers). The fonts are soooo good that they have the extension: NLQ. That's Near Laser Quality folks. Using your favorite word processor you must save your TEXT file onto a disk by PRINTING to it without control characters. Boot up Daisy Dot w/o BASIC and follow the prompts. This one is easy. You'll love it!

Side B has a tool that I can't live without. Actually there are three wonderful tools on this side of the disk. However my most favorite and useful tool is PSHOPPRINT. PRINTSHOP PRINT takes a disk full of P.S. icons, reads the data and prints out a page full of icons seven across with the icon name printed neatly and centered below. Those of us with HUGE libraries of PS icons need this tool. I'm sure that you will get as much use out of this tool as I have.

Boot this disk side with BASIC installed (don't hold OPTION) and read the documentation. It is the first thing you'll see before the MENU appears. I know that you'll get all of your monies worth out of this month's disk selections. Enjoy.....



## ST X-PRESS

Reviewed By Garry Jones, ACAOC OrnJuice

One of the newest publications devoted to the Atari ST computer is *ST X-PRESS*. Published monthly, the magazine has a professional look and feel with a four color cover and half-toned photographs inside. It's available with disk for \$8.50; without for \$3.95, and subscriptions are available. Indeed, subscription may be the easiest way to get the magazine as it has yet to achieve very wide distribution in the Southern California area (surprising, since it's published locally, in La Habra).

I first heard of *ST X-PRESS* late last year when I ran across a request for submissions. And later, when a promotional announcement began circulating on local bulletin boards, my interest was piqued. With the magazine being published locally, I wanted to see what it had to offer. Unfortunately, *ST X-PRESS* was apparently suffering from the new magazine blues and was virtually unobtainable. When Rich Decowski, the editor and publisher of *ST X-PRESS*, recently agreed to fill my request for a review copy of the May issue of the magazine, I was eager to see it.

I think it was worth the wait. As I said above, the magazine has a professional appearance, and is also reasonably well written and edited. Inside, the magazine is divided into four main sections: Miscellaneous, Columns, Features, and Reviews.

The Miscellaneous section contains an editorial, letters from readers, a BBS listing, a 'grapevine' section covering new product announcements and best sellers, and an ST Archive catalog. The ST Archive lists public domain disks and disks from back issues of the magazine. About 80 different disks are available at a price of \$4.97 for single sided disks or \$6.97 for double sided disks, which offer two selections from the Archive per disk. The prices are reasonable, about the same as most user groups charge, and the double sided disk option is especially nice.

There are seven separate columns in the Columns section of the magazine, five of which are devoted to programming. *Assembling Assembly* by Barnaby Finch is obviously devoted to assembly language programming. The article in the May issue is the second part of a two part article dealing with the creation of a desk accessory shell, which can then be used by readers as the basis for the creation of fully functioning desk accessories. It's a little difficult to evaluate only one half of an article, but the text seems thorough and well written, and while apparently aimed at readers who already have some familiarity with assembly language, the article

discusses some of the demands of GEM programming in a way that would be informative to people writing GEM programs in other languages.

In contrast, *Pascal Primer* by John Davidson has very little text explaining its programming example. While the example, a mouse cursor shape editor, has some utility, the text explains little about it and leaves it up to the reader to analyze the source code.

The other three programming columns, devoted to GFA Basic, Forth, and C, are just beginning and only time will tell how they will evolve. I hope they follow Barnaby Finch's lead and provide the reader with useful modules and utilities along with thorough discussions of the programming techniques used.

The final two columns are *Critic's Corner*, by Richard Mataka, and *STalking MIDI*, by Stefan Daystrom, a programmer for Hybrid Arts. *Critic's Corner* is a compilation of capsule reviews, rumors, and personal computing experiences of its' author. The May issue's *STalking MIDI* column describes some MIDI principles and offers a simple method for using MIDI instruments within other programs.

The Features section of the magazine includes coverage of the Pennsylvania Atari Expo, an interview with Infocom's "Hollywood" Dave Anderson, creator of the *Hollywood Hijinx* game, and a disk labeler program by Micheal Ferrara. While the disk labeler is an excellent program (I'm using it to label the ACAOC's public domain disks) and the source code is included, both in print and on disk, the article suffers from an inadequate explanation of the code. The printout of the program code is especially nice, though; it is printed in Helvetica boldface with plenty of space between each code module. Readability is much better than in other magazines where the code always looks like it was printed out on a cheap dot matrix printer.

In the May issue, *ST X-PRESS*'s review section has more than a dozen reviews, covering game like Gato, a submarine simulation, Infocom's Bureaucracy, Hollywood Hijinx, and Moonmist; Michtron's Techmate chess game, and others. There are also reviews of application programs like Michtron's Trimbase, the LDW Basic Compiler, and Zoomracks II. Generally, the reviews seem objective and thorough, and are given enough space to detail the reviewers' experiences and impressions of the programs. My only criticism of the review section is of the excess of game reviews, which outnumber application reviews by about three-to-one. Of course, a reading of one issue isn't enough to make a fair generalization, but I would prefer to see a better balance between game and application



## *Biology, Volume 2 Digestion and Nutrition*

A well done education program from Arrakis (Atari) for ST computers. The program content is very sound and good graphics enhance the presentation of this reasonably priced package (\$19 list). Aimed at high school/beginning community college student.

Program covers the digestive system from mouth to anus. You can follow this path or skip to the any part of the tutorial that you wish to work in. Questions are intermixed with tutorial to check your understanding of key concepts. Scoring rates your progress in the different areas of the digestive system, i.e. mouth, teeth, stomach, large intestine, etc.

This is one of the best educational tutorial programs I have seen. Let's hope that the high quality is maintained through the series. I will demo parts of this program at the October meeting. Bon appetit!

Conrad Weller

## P.S. FUNNIES

FRED OLIVAS

Night after night it's  
the same old thing.



All I want to do is stay  
home and play with my  
Atari computer.



No doubt about it, I  
gotta get into a new  
line of work!



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# SBACE



## SECRETARY'S CORNER

Caroline Connor  
September 8, 1987

Atari has purchased the Federated Stores. The general opinion is that Atari did so to provide an outlet for their products. Soon after the purchase, Atari stock which has risen to \$22. from \$11. at its initial offering, fell to \$11. after a stock split.

A letter was received from a Georgia Atari group member. He is asking for help with a couple of programs. If this sounds like something of interest to you, contact Conrad Weller.

It's time to sign up again for use of the room at Glendale Federal, for our meetings. With luck, meetings will continue on the second Tuesday each month.

Don't forget the Atari fair at Glendale Civic Auditorium on September 19 & 20. Admission is \$5. - well worth the price.

Members Only Drawing

No unhappy members - A member of the Crevier family picked up the prize - an ST golf program (donated by Jane McGrew.

Disc of the Month

Unfortunately the 8 bit DOM, the Digital Librarian and all of the 8-bit equipment were not able to make it because of automobile problems. However there were some excellent demos of ST programs.

Jim Patchell demoed a keyboard recorder which allows editing of timing, pitch and velocity. Cost of this item is \$100. According to Jim "it would make a great public domain program".

Steve Ostenberg treated the group to Anthena II - a two dimensional drafting/drawing assisted program which runs on a color monitor. It was an impressive display of windowing and zooming.

As of this meeting the Board of Directors has a new look. The officers for the coming year are:

President:	Conrad Weller
Vice-President:	John Hines
Treasurer:	Jim Patchell
Secretary:	Avery Galbraith

Digital Librarian: Fred Olivas  
Magazine Librarian: Dan Crevier  
BBS: Jim Patchell

September ends the current fiscal year for SBACE and it was time to elect new officers. Best of luck to them! Its going to be a great year!



# If this ad looks like we typeset it, *look again. . .*

Go ahead. Try looking at it with a magnifying glass. You'll probably still think it was typeset. But it wasn't.

This entire ad was created on an Atari ST<sup>®</sup> with Publishing Partner<sup>™</sup> then printed out on the Linotronic 300<sup>™</sup> Lasersetter from Allied. At 2,540 lines per inch, the Linotronic's resolution is as close to actual typesetting as you can get.

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(Faire, cont. from p. 3)

they'll have a sale from me. The educational institution price for WordPerfect will be \$99 and available early in October.

Two Public Domain disk dealers were doing brisk business with the Atari crowd. With prices at \$3.50 per disk, there were over 300 different PD disks to choose from and I picked up several picture disks I didn't have.

Hybrid Arts had their Mini-Maze on display with 16 Atari ST's connected via MIDI cable and computer players playing against one another at the same time until there was one winner. H/A also had a very nice music station set up with synthesizers, MIDI, DX-7 keyboards, and a ST computer program running the show using SYNTHVIEW. One demo described use of system for Miami Vice TV show music. Pretty nifty.

Many thanks to John King Tarpinian and the other ACENET members that set up such a fine Atari show. I look forward to next year's show.

Conrad Weiler



**THE WIMP BBS (805) 967-5264**

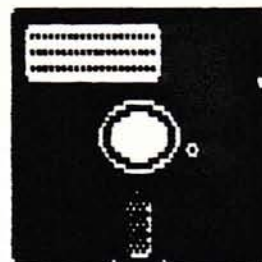
(ST X-Press, cont. from p. 5)

reviews.

As I mentioned earlier, ST X-PRESS available with a disk. Besides the source code programs printed in the magazine, the disk the May issue includes a list of BBS's with a reader-printer program which can also save a list in the proper format for use with the FL terminal program. A compilation of material from Zmag, a weekly electronic magazine featuring news of interest to Atari computer users and telecommunicators, is included, along with another reader-printer program. Finally, there is a folder called INTRO which contains a shell program which plays a tune, introduces the ST X-PRESS disk, displays subscription information and public domain disk ordering instructions, and shows three Degas color pictures.

As an added plus, all of the programs in the magazine and on the disk can be copied and circulated in the public domain provided the author's and magazine's names and copyrights are not altered or deleted.

To sum up, ST X-PRESS is an excellent addition to the list of ST-specific periodicals available. Intended for intermediate users and programmers, the series of programming columns, extensive reviews, monthly availability and a comparatively low price for the disk-included issue are the magazine's pluses. Appealing primarily to readers of Compute! ST, with some crossover from START and ST-LOG, ST X-PRESS has the potential to become a very popular magazine in the ST market as it continues to develop and define itself.



## Local 805 BBS's

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**Programmer's Shack 967-1903**

**SBCC 966-3512**

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Treasurer: Jim Patchell 967-8415  
Secretary: Avery Galbraith 967-9423  
Digital Librarian: Fred Olivas 684-6813  
Magazine Librarian: Dan Crevier 682-4372  
Newsletter Editor: Conrad Weiler 962-3555

THE WIMP BBS: Jim Patchell 967-5264  
All are welcome to log on!

Address all correspondence and exchanges to:

SBACE  
P.O. Box 3678  
Santa Barbara, CA  
93130

\*\*\* Next General Meeting \*\*\*

Tuesday - October 13th - 7:30 pm  
Glendale Federal - State at Hitchcock

## AGENDA

Disks of the Month; Demo of Arrakis Biology Program;  
Music Construction Set; ST Writer (version 2.0).